Farmers' Gazette,

AND CHERAW ADVERTISER.

VOLUME VI. CHERAW, SOUTH-CAROLINA, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 1841. NUMBER 16,

By M. MAC LEAN.

TERMS:—Published weekly at *three dollars* a year; with an addition, when not paid within three months, of twenty per cent per annum.

Two new subscribers may take the paper at five dollars in advance; and ten at twenty.

Four subscribers, not receiving their papers in town, may pay a year's subscription with ten dollars, in advance.

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AGRICULTURAL.

From the Boston Cultivator.

FARMERS' MEETING IN THE STATE HOUSE.

On Thursday evening agreeably to adjournment about three hundred farmers had a very agreeable meeting and discoursed on the subject of stock. The Hon. Daniel P. King presided. Mr. Putnam of Danvers, who was chosen Secretary at a previous meeting, was in his place.

The Commissioner enumerated the most noted breeds of neat stock raised in our own country and adverted to some of the English breeds. He spoke of our Devons, or red cattle, of the Ayrshires which are noted for their small bones, small horns, and long slender necks. He considered the Yorkshire breed coarse and not much improved—said the Holderness breed came from Holland. He thought the Herefords were coming more into favor in England than they have fomerly been. He thought the short horn Durhams not so good as some for milk. He spoke of the Oakes cow of Danvers which had given milk enough for 19 lbs. of butter in a week, and had for several weeks in succession given enough for 16 lbs.

Col. Jaques, of Charlestown, gave us quite an interesting and amusing account of his select stock which he names the Cream Pot breed. He said that in 1819, admiring many points in the short horn Durham breed, he thought he could find some of our natives which would produce a profitable cross—he examined the best native stock in several parts of the country—at length he found a cow, from Groton, which suited him—she was considered a native and had the marks of the Devons—she had a calf by the noted imported bull Celebs—from these two animals he traces his stock of fifty head.

Col. Jaques has been casting off all the individuals which did not suit him. and by retaining those only which did, he says he is now able "to breed to order." He has truly some fine stock and he produced some of the cream which was gathered the day before and he churned it to butter in one minute in a bowl in presence of the whole assembly. The cream was very thick and there seemed to be no buttermilk of any consequence to be separated from the butter. Col. J. says one hundred pounds of cream will produce ninety-five pounds of butter. The Colonel has undoubtedly got on the right track and having pursued it for many years and kept his favorites from intermixture with spurious cattle through several generations he can now with great certainty foretell the qualities of their progeny.

The Colonel spoke of the different kinds of sheep which have been imported—he has no good opinion of the Saxons—thinks the Merinos best for wool and the South Downs better for mutton. In regard to horses he thought the progeny from the cross of the race horse and the Normandy breed a happy one, and that our most serviceable animals are of that cast—they unite swiftness with strength and docility—the Morgan horse he considers the most perfect sample of this breed. He said people had much improved their breeds of swine of late, and that this could be done with much ease and in a short time compared with improvements in neat stock.

Col. Jaques spoke particularly in favor of the Ayrshire breed of cattle which Mr. Cushing of Watertown has introduced on his farm. He said Mr. Cushing had imported and given away a large number of these animals to different societies for the benevolent purpose of improving the stock of the country.

Mr. Putnam of Danvers said he had this week seen in Southboro, a cow of the Cream Pot breed which would yield 15 1-2 pounds of butter per week—the *color* of this cow did not suit Colonel Jaques and he therefore sold her off.

Mr. Sheldon, of Wilmington, is well acquainted with stock, and he knows how cattle should be trained. He said, very truly, we never need to use the whip in case our cattle were properly broke in. In the ox he liked a long, lean face—eyes sharp but pleasant—a full bosom—straight legs—toes straight forward, wide. short foot—a straight back, not rising, and ribs bowing out so wide that when he could pass through a passage he need not strike his hips.

Mr. Sheldon was for breaking horned cattle and horses when they were quite young—said there was not one horse in a hundred would not draw before oxen when properly broken—said when a colt was first put to the draft he should be led *towards* his stable and not from it.

Mr. Jones, of West Tisbury, thought a farmer's life a very pleasant one—he had resided in England and witnessed the improvements there—he thought they could go but little farther in the stock line.—Spoke of Lord Coke's farm of 10,000 acres—said he had not a sheep that would not weigh 150 pounds. They consider the South Downs best for meat—but farmers raise much of the long wool for the factories.

The meeting was adjourned to next Thursday. Subject—Stock and Root Culture.

From the Cultivator.

MEANS FOR THE IMPROVEMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

We invite the attention of the readers of the Cultivator to the following extracts which we make from the letter of an eminent individual, and one of the most intelligent and thoroughly practical farmers in our country. The opinions of such men on the subject of agriculture, and the best means of advancing it, deserve and will receive consideration:

"As to legislative aid, whenever farmers shall be convinced that it is for their advancement and interest, whenever they shall wake up to the importance of their pursuit, and its intimate connection with the prosperity of their country, they will have it; their petitions will command immediate attention, and what *we* are now craving as a boon, *they* will require as their right. But with all due deference to others, I would suggest that on this point we are premature; we are in advance of the times, and are trying to force on the farmer what he has not yet been taught to appreciate. With these views, I would rather turn the attention of the Society to the more extended circulation of Agricultural Periodicals, as the great preparative step to improvement; for myself, I feel it a great individual gain whenever I can induce a neighbor to subscribe to a periodical—he becomes to me a more intelligent and valuable associate—our minds have been occupied with the same subjects, and are prepared to converse of them when we meet, and exchange our views, opinions and experience, upon, whatever has been presented to us. I also believe that occasional lectures adapted particularly to the agricultural community, and having in view certain prejudices which might thus be overcome, would be of infinite service, and would go far to convince them of the great advantage to be derived from reading. The moment the great body of agriculturists consent to *read* they will become the most intelligent portion of society, and I need scarcely say, the most influential. Let the farmer *read*, and he will soon understand what will most conduce to his interests, and will learn how best to promote and secure them. I think then there will be no difficulty in supporting an agricultural school in various districts of the State, and I am strongly inclined to believe that they would be more useful than one large institution as was formerly contemplated. * * * *

"It may be said that these are subjects for individual action. I am aware of it, and most sincerely do I hope that every friend of agricultural improvement will so consider them, and if they view them as I do, that they may be induced to act upon them. There are those in every community, who by a small sacrifice of time and attention, and with a very trifling expenditure in aid of the objects to be desired, may in a few years revolutionize the present miserable state of agriculture around them, and thus become identified with the best interests and most enduring prosperity of their neighborhood."

This appears to us to be sound doctrine. Make men intelligent, make them to understand the subjects that are of the most consequence to them. place in their hands those works that relate to their business and their interests, and they will soon act understandingly and decisively. We believe, and we doubt not all well informed men will concur with us, that the most effectual means for the advancement of agriculture in this country, and placing the farmer in the position which the genius and institutions of the land allot to him, is the diffusion of agricultural knowledge—teaching the farmer to *read*, and thus disabuse his mind of the prejudice which still lingers with so many, of the inutility of science, knowledge, and general learning, in connection with agriculture.

It may easily be shown that there is no single occupation or business in life, where extensive knowledge is more necessary than it is to a full understanding and proper practice of agriculture. There is none so intimately blended with all the important branches of the natural sciences as this; none to which geology, chemistry, botany, and entomology, are such important contributors and invaluable auxiliaries. The earth, the air, are full of instruction to the farmer; the pebble, leaf insect; the composition and decomposition of matter and its causes, are all before him, all constantly going on around him, all inviting attention as part of the processes, he must produce if he is a successful cultivator of the soil. He must read; and if he feels the value of knowledge himself, he will be proportionably anxious that those around him, his neighboring farmer, his friends, should read also. A community of knowledge constitutes one of the strongest ties that can bind society together; whatever may be the topic, it is a bond of feeling and interest not easily broken or destroyed. An intelligent practical man may change the whole course of agriculture in a neighborhood, and give an impulse to its prosperity, which may endure long after the cause is forgotten. We have seen a man go into a neighborhood of farmers, respectable men, but who did not read, and felt the old fasioned contempt and aversion for those who did. This man was a reader of agricultural papers, and when an improvement was pointed out that his good judgment showed was adapted to his means, his farm, or his circumstances, he adopted it at once. He improved his farm by draining his lands, and nearly doubling the ordinary crops, by skillful cropping and rotation. He improved his stock by purchasing at great cost, superior animals to breed from. His neighbors at first called him a *book farmer*, and sneered at his management. They soon found the laugh was on the wrong side, and began to inquire the causes. If he could get a neighbor to read, his periodicals were always at their service; and if he met a brother farmer, some proposition was made or some inquiry started which he was sure would lead to useful results. Soon they found agricultural papers necessary, and became subscribers themselves; an agricultural paper has become as indispensable as a political one, and its arrival is always looked for with interest and pleasure. The prominent farmers of that neighborhood are now *readers*; several different publications are received; and when they meet. the comparative merits of the different modes of husbandry are freely and intelligently discussed. We would wish to see such examples as this more frequently imitated. When they become common, it will be a proud day for American agriculture. In such instances, we trace the true secret of improvement, for although the looker on may at first sneer at the reader he is sure eventually to imitate, first the improvements he makes, and lastly his course of reading. We ask it then as a favor, of every friend to agricultural improvement, to bring a knowledge of farming periodicals to the notice of his neighbors—let them be induced to become subscribers—to read, to reflect on the means of improving their cultivation, and a point will be gained, which will afford a rational hope of rapidily increasing and permanent prosperity.—*Cultivator.*

From the Western Far. and Gardener.

HINTS FOR MAKING A MANURE.

As it is not in the power of small farmers and gardeners to keep a sufficient number of animals to make a large quantity of manure, (usually prepared in the farm yard,) to form a source of wealth so much neglected in situations really requiring these means, and difficult to obtain them, we will now give some directions for the best substitute for this purpose. First, then, dig a pit in a convenient part of the farm or garden premises down to the clay, if there be any, or a kind of tank or cistern near the house would be still better, and put a layer of finely broken earth on the bottom, on which throw for some little time, say a week, all the suds, dirty water, and *all* other liquids from the house and farm that can be collected,—the whole to be properly mixed together with a shovel, the operator standing on the brink of the pit or tank; and afterwards a thin layer of earth, road scrapings or sods to prevent evaporation. In another week, or as often as possible, add another layer of finely broken earth, and other liquids from *all quarters*, till your pit or cistern is full and ready to be cleansed out, to give room fer another "making." When the material is thrown out of the pit, it will be always necessary and proper to cover it over entirely with weeds or some kind of refuse, as straw, &c., but the more vegetable matter the better. It will be found, if this process be earnestly persevered in, that a greater quantity of this kind of manure to produce fine crops, than is usually made from the farm yard, will not be necessary, and the good effects will remain in the soil, and appear on the future crops. Buts should be made in different parts of the surface of the heap, the liquid being alway immediately covered over. Lime in successive layers would greatly add to the richness and value of the above compost, and leaves from the woods might be added to it occasionally with great advantage. Now, learned essayists, classical theorists, and scientific exposers of modern terms may laugh at this simple plan of agricultural enrichment, but here is a matter on which we may exercise nearly all our senses—we can see it, touch it, most certainly smell it, and at any stage of the process we can readily hear it. But before concluding, we must observe, that different manures are adapted to different soils, and different plants, and a long continuance of the same manure to the same soil is often injurious. We must here also remark, that we have known many farmers to draw manure at a dear rate, from towns, who were allowing much liquid manure, for want of a trifling arrangement in the stables, viz: wooden gutters, to "waste its sweetness in the desert air."

E. J. H.

To the Editors of the Western Farmer and Gardener.

Hamilton Co., O., Nov. 26, 1840.

GENTLEMEN:—A friend of mine related to me, a few days since, the result of an experiment made in feeding hogs, which may be interesting to your readers. He took four, of the common breed of hogs, from his field, all as near the same age, size, and condition as possible; and after ascertaining what quantity of shelled corn each animal would eat per day, without waste—and which he found to be about 17 pounds—he weighed each hog and penned them two in a pen. To the one pair he fed 34 pounds of shelled corn per day, and to the other pair he gave 17 pounds of corn meal made into mush.—At the expiration of four weeks, each one was again carefully weighed, one of these fed on dry corn had gained but three three pounds—he was afterwards found to be diseased—the other had gained 20 pounds. On weighing those which had been fed upon half the quantity of corn ground into meal and made into mush, their increase was found to be, the one 23 pounds and the other 28.

These results convinced me of the economy of not only grinding or chopping but of cooking the food for all animals.

A SUBSCRIBER.

We have long been convinced of this, and have repeatedly urged its adoption, and are pleased to see that the practice is already becoming common. In the above experiment, besides the saving in quantity consumed, the gain in the extra increase, of those fed on the cooked food, was no small matter. It is evident, however, that the hogs themselves, must have been of a very ordinary breed—had they been at all akin to "Oteco," a western Berkshire sow the increase in weight, from a daily allowance of eight and a half pounds of corn meal must would have been very different. We saw a proof of the effect of even a slight cross of the improved breeds, in a lot of ten, on the farm of Wm. Neff, Esq. of this county, which were pigged last April, and are now in the pen and in process of being fatted. They will weigh, we are confident, at least 300 pounds nett, by the end of December! They are only one fourth bred English Graziers. When so slight a tinge of good blood will do such wonders, is it not surprising that our farmers do not all strain a point to improve their long-nosed, long-legged *corn cribs.*

T. A.

HOP GROWING.

I presume it is not generally known, that in various parts of Ohio and Indiana, hops are grown to a very considerable extent. I had a long conversation a few days ago, with a farmer from Ripley county, Indiana, from whom I gleaned several very interesting particulars. On taking a note of the number of acres cultivated in this crop. amongst his neighbors in Ripley and Dearborn counties, Indiana, I found them to amount, in all to over 50 acres! From one acre to six, was the extent of the different plantations he named. Without entering into the approved practice of other states or other countries, in their management of this plant, I shall state, in as few words as possible, the outlines of the mode of culture there, with the hope that some of those gentlemen who have hop plantations, in the counties we have named, will extend these outlines. May we look for such an article from Mr. Charles Perrine, or Mr. Thomas W. Clark, of Ripley co.? We feel confident that neither of these gentlemen will hesitate in giving to the world, the particulars of their successful culture.

This plant is propagated by offsetts, which are planted out, in land properly prepared, at distances proportioned to the richness of the soil. They require very careful cultivation; the first year they yield a light crop, generally sufficient to pay the expense of planting, they are in full bearing the third and fourth years; after that a falling off—the plantation is renewed after 6 or 7 years. Dogwood and Sassafras poles are used. In the end of August or early in September, the stems are cut near the ground, and the poles are pulled up, to allow of the blossoms being picked off—they are hauled to one place, where the picking is performed by women and children; generally quite a merry time—a real frolic. The hops are then placed in the drying house, where they are dried by the use of charcoal; on this part of the process, their value, in a great measure depends. After being properly dried, they are tramped in large sacks, ready for market.

This year they are very high and eagerly sought after by purchasers, the price varying from 50 cts. to 75 cts. as in quality. It has been a poor year, owing to the long time of wet weather we had, when the plant was in blossom. Where the ground was dry the crop was nevertheless a good one—the land in that region, being rather wet. Some five or seven years ago, a farmer there cleared nearly $1,000, from the crop of a single acre! so states my informant. There is no doubt of its being an extremely profitable, though somewhat expensive crop, and one, like silk, admirably adapted for the man with a small farm, and a large family. As a proof, we see it stated in a recent Indiana paper, that in four townships of one county, (Dearborn.) and part of a fifth, that 9,676 lbs. of hops were raised this year for market, which, at 50 cts. per lb., amounts to $4,838. T. A.

West. Far. & Gar.

IMPOSITION.

"We learn from a source entitled to full credit, that large numbers of part blood Berkshire hogs, have been taken from Lebanon, Ohio, to Missourri, and the south, and there disposed of as thorough bred."

Ky. Farmer.

Is it possible that there are any such unprincipled breeders about Lebanon? We hope there may be some mistake, and we call upon those, either there or elsewhere in this neighborhood, who have any pretensions to breeding fine hogs, to come forward and deny that they had any participation in such transactions.

We have our eye upon an individual in this city, who is reported to make a business of buying up half breeds, both of Berkshires and Durhams, and of taking them westward and disposing of them as full breeds! The first time that we can learn of such a shipment, we will take pains to inform ourselves of all the particulars and give them to the world. Though we must say, that those who, from penuriousness or a mistaken economy, purchase hogs or cattle of any breed, *as pure*, from any one but a well known and responsible breeder, and one who is not ashamed to have his stock brought before the public, deserves to be taken in. T. A.

West. Far. & Gar.

BEET ROOTS—BUTTER.

To the Editor of the American Farmer:

DEAR SIR,—Being possessed of a small dairy farm and a small herd of milch cows (only 4) my attention for the last two years has been particularly called to their care. The want of experience in agriculture has led me to resort to the different agricultural journals of the day for information, and from the perusal of them I have derived great pleasure and satisfaction, more particularly noticing those articles referring to the dairy and dairy farming. I have frequently been surprised by the accounts of the great yield of milk and butter from individual cows—for instance, a short horn belonging to Mr. Wolbert, Philadelphia, gives daily twenty-seven quarts of rich milk upon *ordinary* feed, from which 14 3-4 lbs. of butter were made in a week. A cow belonging to Mr. Gowan, of Germantown, gave an average of more than twenty-eight quarts of milk per day for a week.—And the interesting accounts of the Rev. Mr. Colman, of Mass. of the *cream pot* breed.

I have no such instances to record, although in comparing with the generality of cattle around me, I stand pretty well, and although contented on reference to my dairy account, yet I am not satisfied. But in order to improve and know the facts, I register the weekly churnings from my four cows, and find from January, 1840, to January, 1841, they have produced me 562 lbs. of butter. I mention it here in hopes some one may be induced to follow my example. Each cow in my opinion ought to furnish 200 lbs. of butter in 12 months—and I shall not think I have profitable cows unless they do it. By care and attention to their comfort and quality of food, my cows have improved, and as they are still young, I think with the same attention they will continue to do so, and eventually I shall obtain my limit.

The object, however, of this communication is to elicit more particular information with regard to the effects of the beet root as an article of food to cows when the desideratum is butter. The frequent laudatory communications I have read as to its adaptation for cattle food, has induced me to follow the crowd and cultivate both the mangoled wurtzel and sugar beet. During the winter of 1839, I fed from both kinds, and observed then, after a weeks feeding, the effects upon the cows and milk which I have repeatedly noticed since, and that is, (when constantly fed with them an *obvious decrease in the quantity of butter*, although the secretious of milk were frequently greater, and *a powerful action upon the kidneys* of the cows.)

These results so different from those assertions of more experienced farmers than myself, have led me, nevertheless, to continue my observations from time to time, but with the same results—and I now have come to the conclusion that where the object is the qauntity of butter, they do not answer so well as cobmeal—but when milk or beef is the object, they are all that is said of them.

My system of feeding when with beets, was to give each cow a peck night and morning, filling the rack before her with clover hay—continuing it for sometimes two weeks and never less than one.

Then I have changed to cut straw, mixed up with one peck of brown stuff to each cow, with hay in the rack night and morning.

Then again I have tried a peck of beets with about two quarts of brown stuff sprinkled over them, night and morning, with hay as before.

And lastly, I have given a quart of cobmeal mixed with an half bushel of cut clover hay, or corn blades sufficiently moistened, night and morning. This last feed I think is preferable, besides having good effects upon the flavor and color of the butter.

The brown stuff above mentioned is an offal of the millers—rather better than bran, although not as good as ship stuff, and costs me from thirteen to eighteen cents per bushel. The cornmeal costs me a fip per bushel to grind.

Without entering into further detail or enlarging upon the subject, I hope the facts here stated may attract the attention of some one of your numerous correspondents, who will communicate his experience and opinion upon the subject, keeping in view the article Butter.

Respectfully, your obt. servt. F. H.

February 12, 1841.

By "cobmeal" in the above article, called in another place "corn meal" the writer probably means the meal from the indian corn and cobs ground together.

FAR. GAZ.

FINE MUTTON.

About the finest lot of sheep we have ever seen, was exhibited on Tuesday last by Messrs. Sterling Thomas and J. M. Turner, and the mouth of many an epicure *watered* when he thought of the delicacy these gentlemen had prepared for their palates. The nett weight of eight of these sheep is as follows:—167, 166 1-2, 162, 157, 156, 150 1-2, 145, 143 1-2—averaging 156 lbs. One imported ewe 137 1-2; one only a year old, 123 lbs. They are all of the full bred Leicester, and were raised by Major Philip Reybold, of Newcastle county, Delaware.

Baltimore Sun.

From the Southern Cabinet.

ON THE CULTURE OF CLOVER IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

North Santee, Nov. 1, 1840.

MR. LEGARE,—

Dear Sir:—For the information of the Southern Planters, I take the liberty of writing a few lines on the Subject of Red Clover. My plantation is on the north side of Santee River, within one mile of Vanc'es ferry, the greater part of it is a strong clay soil, and produces red clover to perfection. I have seen red clover both in Europe and the United States, and mine the last season was as good as any I have ever seen. I am now fully satisfied that on any good clayey soil the red clover will grow as well in South-Carolina as in Kentucky or Europe. The land must be well broken up in the winter by Good Mouldbourd ploughs, and in February sown down in small grain, oats or rye.—Early in March, the clover seed must be sown on the oats or rye, and rolled in at the rate of one bushel of red clover seed to ten acres; the land must be well pulverised by harrowing when the oats are sown. I use a box to sow the clover seed. In the first place when my oats or rye is sowed and harrowed well to make it fine and smooth, I lay it off with a double plough in lands eight feet wide or water furroughs. My seed box is made as follows: it is six feet long, three inches wide, three inches high on each side and divided ed twelve divisions; in the centre of each is a hole 1 1-4 inch large, having a piece of tin on the bottom to let the seed pass through, punched with small holes large enough for the seed; and a leather strap nailed to each end of the box to put round the sower's neck. With this he can sow thirty acres per day. By giving the box a shake as he walks it will spread the seed to each land and give a beautiful stand of clover. A protecting crop of small grain is necessary for clover in this hot climate. I sow broad cast over the oats and clover. Four bushels of good oak or hickory ashes to the acre. I would prefer lime if I had it. I expect to sow next spring fifty acres in oats and red clover. I am fully convinced that in all clayey soils, red clover will do well, if pains are taken in preparing the land as above described, and will bring up our worn out fields better than any thing else; will afford good pastures for cattle for three years. and then if ploughed in, will enrich the land for corn and cotton. Clover seed can be brought in the northern cities for from five to six dollars per bushel. I am certain that I will enrich my worn out lands by the red clover system.

I remain, yours, respectfully,

HUGH MCDONALD.

TO FORWARD VEGETABLES.

If you wish to produce early vegetables, before the usual time, as, for instance, cucumbers, melons. &c., take a few large potatoes or common sized turnips and scoop out the inside with a knife or spoon, and fill the cavity with rich earth. In this deposit a few seeds, and place the potatoes in some warm situation in the house.—They will soon sprout and grow. By the time the season is advanced beyond the danger of frost, the potatoes, previous care being taken to dig out the eyes, may be set out in the open ground. The plants will continue to grow without disturbance, and the potatoes will soon rot and afford nutriment for the plants. We have tried this method often, with succes. The only danger is, that if the plants stand long in the house after they are up, and are placed in a situation where it is considerably darker than it is out of doors, the stems will